



The Stone Bridge, Regensburg, Germany

Courtesy, "Travel"

THE STORY OF THE DANUBE

By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART



THE MENTOR · DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL
SERIAL NUMBER 94

MENTOR GRAVURES

ROYAL PALACE AND RIVER FROM THE FRANZ JOSEF QUAY, BUDAPEST,
HUNGARY · VILLAGE OF WEITENEGG, AUSTRIA · THE WALHALLA
REGENSBURG, GERMANY · BERCHTESGADEN, NEAR SALZBURG, AUSTRIA
THE RUIN DÜRNSTEIN, AUSTRIA · CHAIN BRIDGE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

WHAT is the greatest European river? To the Germans it is the Rhine, famed in legend, history, and song. To the Russians it is the interminable Volga. The Italians praise the Po, and the French "the arrowy Rhone."

In fact the great European stream is and has ever been the Danube, uniting east to west, draining the southerly slopes of the German, Bohemian, and Hungarian mountains and also a good part of the Alps,—the spinal cord of the continent. The valley of the Danube has for uncounted centuries been the highway for warring nations. Greek, Roman, German, Slav, and Hun have pursued one another up and down the steep banks and across the lower plains. Great wars, great empires, great cities, great men, have grouped themselves along this majestic stream.

The schoolboy early learns and quickly forgets that the Danube rises almost within sight of the middle Rhine, and empties into the Black Sea, a few hundred miles from the Bosphorus. He learns also that the river drains an area of 500,000 square miles (about that of Alaska); that it is 2,000 miles long (that is, about the same length as the Mississippi from St. Anthony's Falls to the sea); that it is navigable for nearly its whole length, and sustains a lively commerce; that since the improvements of

the Iron Gate in its lower course not a fall nor a serious rapid interferes with up-river trade. The schoolboy, however, never dreams, till he becomes a traveler and makes the intimate acquaintance of the mighty stream, how great and varied are the beauties of its shores. Still less does he suspect the adventures and wars and experiences and race episodes which cluster around this mid-European water highway.

THE GERMAN DANUBE

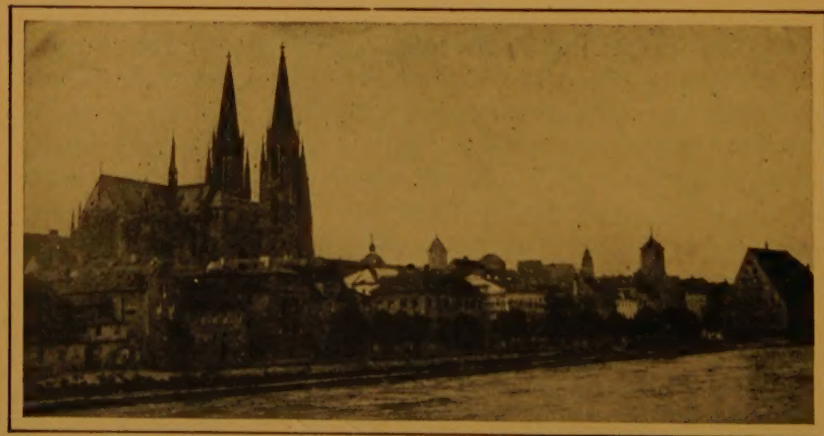
Like the Mississippi, the Danube has a habit of taking in more water than it can conveniently hold, and then disgorging it wherever the banks are low and the valley is wide. The Danube without its floods would be like a summer without clouds. All the way down the river people expect to be surprised from time to time by the rush of high waters. Otherwise they would feel neglected by their pet river.

Years ago, when the news spread throughout Europe that the Danube was drowning the cattle and uprooting the houses of the dwellers along the river near Vienna, a peasant of St. Georgen, away up in the Black Forest, issued from his house armed with a spade, and said to his family, "I'm going to stop those terrible floods; I'm going to dam the Danube." And he quickly made an embankment across the little Brigach, which is the ultimate source of the Danube, and thus—in his own mind—cut off the superfluous water. A little below the scene of this engineering exploit, near the town of Donaueschingen, the Brigach and the Brege unite into the stream which from that point to its mouth is called the Danube.

As far as Passau the river flows through the German empire, and the whole valley is permeated with German traditions and German history. It passes within a few miles of the castle of Hohenzollern, cradle of the present Kaiser race. At Eining can be seen the terminus of a Roman wall which stretched northwestward across the country to the Rhine, as a bulwark against the uneasy and warlike German tribes.

As the voyager slips on down the current he comes into a region

described in the oldest German poem, the "Nibelungenlied," and one may follow the watery track of the visiting heroes to Vienna, where for seventeen days they feasted and fought.



Courtesy, "Travel" **THE CATHEDRAL, REGENSBURG, GERMANY**

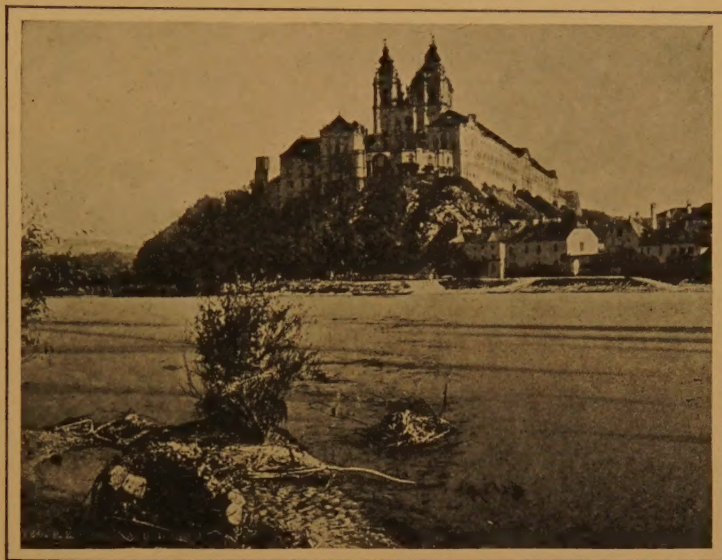
"The water was covered
with people as though
it were the earth
With steed and rider
flowing down the
stream,
And many a handsome
tent was pitched
thereon."

Another passage of
the poem sets in
motion a train of
German Burgundi-
ans, who float down
the Danube and
reach Eizelburg,
seat of the king of
the Huns. There
Hagen and Gunther
and a host of he-
roes taunt one an-

other, fight one another, spear one another, chain one another up, and, while dying, ventilate old slanders about one another. The only agreeable person in this rhymed tale is Siegfried, Brünnhilde's son, who is crowned king of the Burgundians and subsequently furnishes a "motive" for one of Wagner's operas.

The German Danube is sown with more authentic tales of war and adventure. Ulm in Würtemberg possesses one of the loftiest and most majestic of German cathedrals, its soaring spire finished only in the last few years. Ulm is also the town that was so suddenly captured by Napoleon in 1805; and a few weeks later, farther down the river, Napoleon defeated Austria and Russia at Austerlitz. Then he rearranged the boundaries of the middle Danube, and shortly appeared the new fledged German kingdoms of Würtemberg and Bavaria, under the conqueror's direction and authority. The middle Danube is strewn with battle sites, and abounds in old cities, villages, convents, and castles.

In the heart of Bavaria is the fine old river town of Regensburg, once the Roman Regina Castra. There the curious visitor may see the unpretentious building and halls in which used to sit the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire, till Napoleon pulled that alleged empire to pieces. This part of the Danube is a smart river, still an artery of commerce, with boats floating down stream, and with small steamers,—a smiling river, for the most part flowing through an open country, though it runs through a few short gorges. Above the river near Regensburg is the Bavarian Walhalla, a kind of hall of fame for great Germans of the South.



THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY, MELK, AUSTRIA

Melk is a small town at the base of the rock on which stands, two hundred feet above the river, the domed church with its two towers

THE AUSTRIAN DANUBE

A little below Passau the river enters the province of Upper Austria; and for as far as Linz, about sixty miles down stream, it runs through a picturesque region abounding in cliffs, rapids, and ruined castles. The four-hour trip through a harmless but a delightfully terrorizing rapid is one of the shows of central Europe, and by most travelers is thought to be far superior in picturesqueness to the Rhine. Farther down is the bold defile marked by enormous buildings of the convent of Melk; and a little below, the famous castle of Dürnstein, where, according to tradition, Richard Cœur de Lion was a prisoner. Still farther down lies Vienna, a famous place since its founding as Vindobona by the Kelts, before the Romans came.

The course of the river through upper Austria and lower Austria is the center of a mighty culture. For ages the river was the northern boundary of the Roman Empire. Fragments of the walls and triumphal arches of that once splendid civilization are still visible, especially at Petronell, just below Vienna, where once stood the city, castle, camp, and naval station of Carnuntum. Vienna has been for ages the capital of Austrian power, and the archduke of Austria was for centuries the German emperor.



VILLAGE FAMILY, AUSTRIA



THE DANUBE, DIVIDING HUNGARY AND SERBIA

Spelt *Servia* and *Serbia*—the latter form has now become generally adopted.

In all the long history of the proud and beautiful city of Vienna the most dramatic incident is the terrible siege by the Turks in 1683. In one of the suburbs may still be seen the "Turkish trenches" from which the Moslems were at last driven by a relieving army commanded by Jean Sobieski, the Pole.

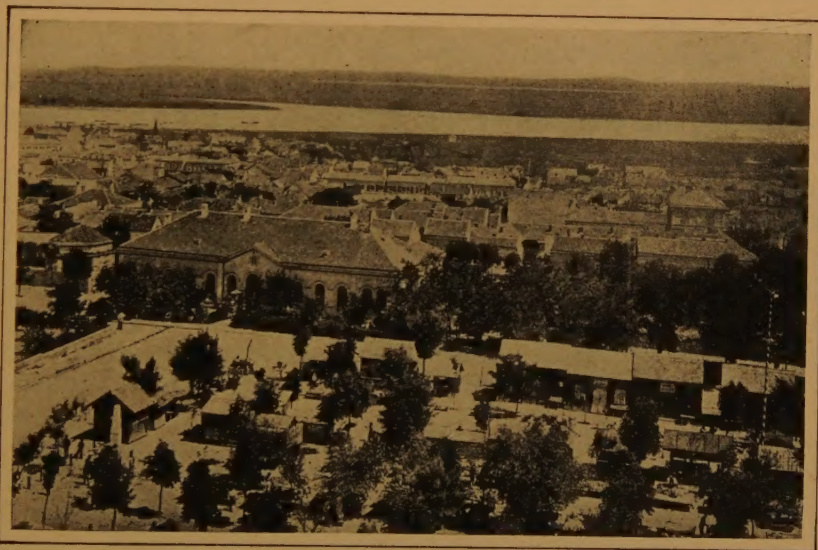
T H E R I V E R D A N U B E

That spot is the high-water mark of the Turkish empire—never did the Moslems come so near overthrowing the German bulwark of Christianity. From that time they slipped away, slowly giving ground southward till, about a hundred years ago, the regions north of the Danube were at last free from them. The Austrian Danube, like the German, is studded with battlefields, especially the scenes of the French victories of Austerlitz, and Wagram four years later, and the famous field of Mohacs, where the Hungarians were conquered by the Turks and a century later turned the tables on their conquerors. From Austria also the armies of Pappenheim and Wallenstein radiated which marched out in the fearful Thirty Years' War to devastate North Germany. The Viennese have in a way adopted the great river, through Strauss' famous waltz, "The Beautiful Blue Danube"—though to ordinary eyes the blue Danube is green before a rain and yellow after it.

THE HUNGARIAN DANUBE

A few miles below Vienna the Danube passes the fortress of Pressburg, and enters the territory of Hungary. As far as Belgrade the whole

valley, with its numerous broad affluents, is Hungarian, and below Belgrade the river is for a long distance the boundary between Hungary on the north and Serbia and Bulgaria on the south. In



BELGRADE, SERBIA, looking toward the Danube



BELGRADE, SERBIA, looking across the river toward the city. The fortifications may be seen

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Beautifully situated on the banks of the Salzach, a tributary of the Danube



this stretch the Danube is connected with the most ancient and famous episodes of East European history. The Argonauts, after they

had found the Golden Fleece, are fabled to have steered for the mouths of the Danube, and ascended it so far that they carried the good ship Argo on their shoulders from the river's source to the Adriatic Sea.

Pannonia, which included present western Hungary, was a Roman province for centuries, and was studded with cities, palaces, baths, bridges, and monuments. To the north of the Danube the Romans pushed their boundaries to what were then the farthest confines of the civilized world, and set up the province of Dacia. Emperor Vespasian sent from the Danube the fifteenth legion, which, under command of his son Titus, captured Jerusalem not many years after the Crucifixion.

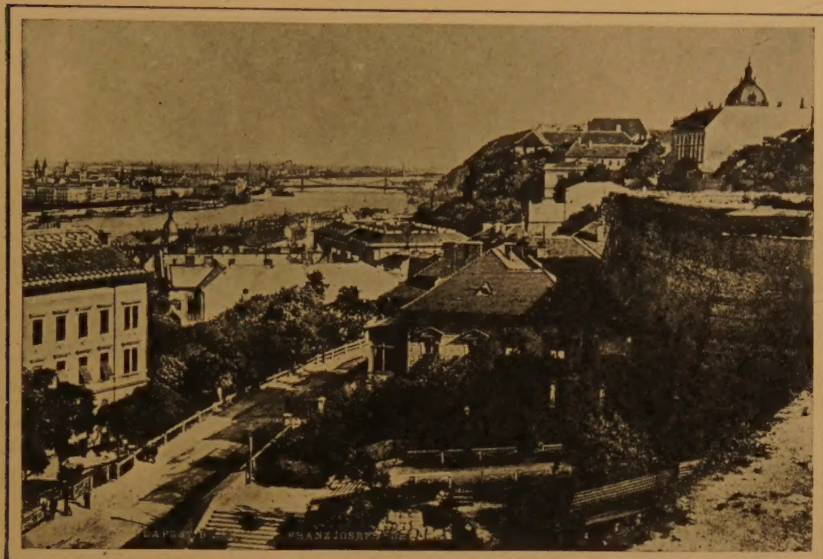
The name of Emperor Trajan is stamped upon the whole countryside;



THE BATH, MARGARET ISLAND, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

for he built and enlarged the boundary walls, and caused to be hewed on the south side of the Danube the narrow shelf road which is still discernible for many miles, while his tablet is still in existence.

Nothing is more remarkable in the whole course of the Danube than the



**BUDAPEST.
HUNGARY**

Looking toward
the Franz Josef
Bridge

kingdom of
the Magyars,
an Asiatic
race which
came into
Europe on
horseback
and appreci-
ated the vast
fertile plains
of the mid-

Danube. A thousand years ago they arrived; nine hundred years ago they were converted to Christianity; and still they are the marvel of central Europe, a highly gifted, intellectual, and military race, who have developed a great land and have built the famous world city of Budapest. This double municipality occupies both sides of a splendid sweep of the Danube, and in the midst is the lovely Margaret island, which has been made a public park. Nowhere in Europe is there a more imposing sweep of buildings on a lofty hill than old Buda with its immense imperial palace, its ancient church, and its picturesque bastion.

Farther east and north of the Danube is the crater of that volcano of seething races from which issued those lava streams of barbarian hordes which could not be stopped until they had crushed the Roman Empire, and all but extinguished civilization. Out of this comparatively small part of Europe have come forth half a dozen race stocks and twenty-five or thirty language units. Between the mid-Danube and the Volga, north-



THE QUAY AND ROYAL PALACE. BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



THE ELIZABETH BRIDGE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

west of the Black Sea, when men first began to write history, were communities of Finns, Kelts, Germans, and Slavs, and thither came later Greco-Italians and several Asiatic races.

The first great empires of Asia Minor and Europe warred against the barbarian tribes north of the Danube. In 513 B. C. Darius led his Persians into that wilderness and was driven back across the Bosphorus in confusion. Alexander the Great marched to the Danube. Aided by ships that came from Byzantium, he sailed up the river, crossed over, and beat the warlike Getæ. Constantine crossed the Danube somewhere and attacked the East Goths; and in the year 378 the fierce Germanic barbarians returned the compliment, by defeating Valens at Adrianople and smashing in that side of the Roman Empire.

Other barbarians besides the Goths brought consternation to the Romans and their successors. From beyond the Danube came the Bulgarians, a people who still believe themselves to be of Asiatic stock, and by some are supposed to be remnants of the Huns. A little more than fourteen hundred years ago they crossed over into the mountain country between the Danube and Thrace, and there their descendants are still living, and in our day have founded a nation. Meanwhile the Slavs,



BULGARIAN WOMEN

who so far had made little noise in the world, pushed westward and southward till they reached the Adriatic Sea; and their descendants, the Servians, the Bosnians, the Dalmatians, the Croats, the Slovenes and Slovaks, and the Bohemians are caught in the grinding wheels of the present European war.

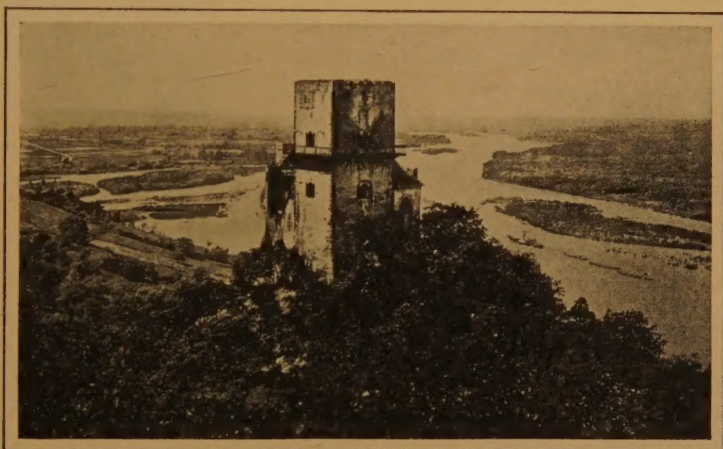
Germans, Bulgarians, and Slavs in their turn were pressed upon by the Huns,—the first and perhaps the most fero-

cious of all the Asiatic hordes which have from time to time helped to make an inferno out of the fair Danube region,—the Tatars, the Magyars, the Turks.

The Hunnish king, Attila, "Scourge of God," is one of the great figures of history. A Greek from Constantinople who visited him was little taken with the other Huns; for to his cultured eye they looked more like dogs than men, notwithstanding their garments embroidered with pearls and their golden jewelry. Yet he could not but admire the power and simplicity of their king, who rode to the door of the palace on horseback, and from his saddle tasted the meat and wine. To his guests food was offered from gold and silver vessels, placed on tables adorned with white tablecloths; but the king ate by himself from a plate of wood, choosing sparingly a single one of the courses. Yet even this fierce warrior smiled at the sight of his little son. This is the man who throughout his life spread woe, devastation, and death far and wide through Europe.

These mixtures of races and nationalities were engaged in fierce and unrelenting wars nearly two thousand years ago; and in our own time the Danube region is still feeling the difficulty of forming a mosaic of nations.

The Goths, the Huns, the Germans, the Hungarians, the Poles, and the Turks have all failed to hold together an empire made up of national units of many race stocks and speaking many languages. One of the main causes of the present great European war is the apprehension that the Slavs outside of Austria-Hungary will pull away the Slavs within that empire; and that same trouble has caused the break-up of half a dozen empires on the Danube. It stands in the way of any settlement of the boundaries in that part of the world at the end of the war; for no one race has ever succeeded in making itself the unquestioned master. In fact the only race that came near it was the Roman, which for several centuries maintained one official language and system of laws and war.



GREIFENSTEIN, AUSTRIA

A fine old castle, partly restored. It is now a station on the railroad

THE RUMANIAN-BULGARIAN DANUBE

The lowest stretch of the river, from Orsova to the great delta on the Black Sea, is in many ways the most interesting; for the stream cleaves

down the mountains, and runs through the magnificent gorge of Kazan which terminates in a defile which has been known for ages as the Iron Gate. Those once dangerous narrows have been blasted out till there remains nothing except a brisk stream between mountains, very like the Hudson at West Point. Few river stretches in the world are so endowed with scenic beauty. At Turn Severin, just to the east of the mountains, may be seen a tower and two of the piers of Trajan's Roman bridge. That was a splendid engineering feat; for, except for the great railway bridge at Chernavoda, there is to this day no bridge across the Danube below Belgrade.

Farther down is the so-called Trajan's Wall, which is one of the best preserved and finest of all Roman boundary works. The railway from Constanza to Bukharest runs parallel with it for miles, and even from the train one may see the great sweeping ramparts of masonry and earth following the roll of the hills. People nowadays scoff at the idea of a national boundary wall; but the Romans knew what they were doing. They could not prevent barbarians from climbing the walls, but they could make it very inconvenient for the horses and wagons in which those movable tribes carried their women and children. All along the walls there were forts and fortified camps where soldiers could collect; and disciplined troops well armed could usually march along, supported by

their wall, and scoop up the broken bands. That the Romans believed in them is shown by the fact that in middle Hungary three lines of wall can be traced, each one apparently built to protect a new frontier as the Romans pushed up into their enemy's country.



STRUDEN, AUSTRIA

Above the village stands the ruin of Werfenstein Castle on a steep rock



PÉTERVÁRAD, (German, Peterwardein), HUNGARY

Above the town on the rock stands a large fortress



STEAM FERRY OVER THE DANUBE BETWEEN GOMBOS AND ERDOD, HUNGARY

The whole course of the lower Danube is immensely picturesque; for the river winds attractively between the striking white buildings of the Rumanians and the old towns of Widden and Rustchuck and Silistria, where the Turkish mosques are still to be seen. The Danube was for four centuries an element in the well-nigh successful attempt of the Turks to overwhelm central Europe. From 1500 to 1800 A. D. the lower Danube was a Turkish stream, and as late as 1866 they had a few soldiers in the old fort at Belgrade. A few miles below that town is the wonderful castle city of Semendria, an almost perfect Turkish fortified town, with its lofty towers all standing. One of the modern Danubian states is Rumania, where people are convinced that they are descended from the ancient Romans. It hardly seems likely that this center of the eastern European melting pot should keep its race and culture through the sixteen centuries since the Romans retired south of the Danube. The people still wear the Roman toga, combined with Germanic white trousers; but they are apparently a Slavic race with much admixture of German, Russian, Turkish, and even Asiatic blood.

To the Rumanians the great river is a special friend; for it is in its lower course practically an arm of the sea. Seagoing steamers run many miles up from the delta; and Galatz, the principal new city, is in a way the New Orleans of the Danube. All the lower river is protected by treaties giving free use of its waters to ships of all nations, and there is a special financial commission to control this international traffic. As the river nears its Nirvana in the Black Sea it is a wide and majestic stream. Some stretches are like long, winding lakes. It reaches the sea, through many mouths, in a low and marshy delta.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

THE DANUBE FROM THE BLACK FOREST
TO THE BLACK SEA *By F. D. Millet (1893)*

An artist's illustrated account of a trip.

HUNGARY OF TODAY (1909)

By Members of the Hungarian Government, etc.,

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, INCLUDING DALMATIA AND BOSNIA *By Carl Baedeker*

SOUTHERN GERMANY

By Carl Baedeker

TURKEY IN EUROPE

By Sir C. N. E. Eliot

Best book on the place of Turkey in the Danube valley.

THE BALKANS, A LABORATORY OF HISTORY

By W. M. Sloane (1914)



THE DONAU (DANUBE) CANAL, VIENNA

This number of *The Mentor* is the second in the series of the "Stories of the Great Rivers." The first was *Mentor* No. 65, which was devoted to the Rhine. Future numbers will tell the stories of the Nile, the Tiber, the Seine, the Amazon, the Hudson, the Mississippi, and other great streams of the world. Each of these rivers has a distinctive character of its own. The Nile suggests the mystery of Egypt, the Rhine Germanic history, legend, and song, and the Tiber the glory that was Rome's. We published the story of the Rhine in August last year, just at a time when war activities had begun in the lands that lie near that river. We publish now the story of the Danube, which flows through the eastern kingdoms, where the latest interests of the war are centered.

★ ★ ★

The Danube winds through Bavaria and upper Austria, contributing a part of its waters to Vienna in the form of the Donau canal. Then it flows on in a right-angled trip through Hungary, where it pays its respects to the twin city Budapest. It then sets off for the south, where it skirts Slavonia and Serbia. From Belgrade east it marks the boundary line

between Hungary and Serbia. Then for miles it divides Bulgaria from Rumania, sweeps north through Rumania, again turns east, drawing a boundary line between Rumania and Russia, and finally enters the Black Sea in a widespread delta.

From this it may be seen that the Danube is the great eastern artery of Europe and that it flows through the very center of important present day events. Many questions, involving the destiny of nations, are being asked on one side of the Danube, and being answered on the other.

★ ★ ★

It may be remarked by some of our readers that we pay but little attention in this article to the great cities that are located on the banks of the Danube. This is quite in accord with *The Mentor* Plan. The basic principle of *The Mentor* Association is to learn one thing at a time, and this time the subject is the Story of the Danube. We do not, therefore, describe here the features of Vienna, Budapest, and other Danube cities. But *The Mentor* readers will get them each in turn. Vienna has already been attractively covered—in *Mentor* No. 49—and Budapest will receive a like attention in due time.

W. S. Moffat

EDITOR

THE VALHALLA, REGENSBURG, GERMANY



The Story of the Danube

REGENSBURG, GERMANY

Monograph Number One in The Mentor Reading Course



VERY visitor to Regensburg on the banks of the Danube goes to see the Walhalla, the national monument to German patriotism and greatness. This beautiful classic building was erected by Louis I of Bavaria. It is an expensive reproduction of the old Parthenon in Athens, and stands on a hill that rises from the Danube. The interior is rich in colored marbles, gilding, and sculpture, and it contains busts of more than 100 Germans known to fame.

Regensburg is situated on the German part of the Danube River, and is 85 miles from Munich and 60 from Nuremberg. The town is quaint and romantic, and is an almost perfect picture of a German town of the Middle Ages. The older houses have strong loopholed towers attached, a characteristic feature of Middle Age architecture.

In early times there was a Celtic settlement at Regensburg,—Radespona. The Romans chose this town as a center of their power, and afterward it became the seat of the dukes of Bavaria. It was also the center from which Christianity spread over southern Germany.

Regensburg became for a time the most flourishing city in southern Germany; but later lost its mercantile importance and suffered much in the wars. It has been said that it was besieged 17 times. For many years Regensburg was the seat of the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire, and the building in which it met is still preserved.

The Cathedral of Regensburg is small; but it is a good example of pure German Gothic architecture. It was founded in 1275, although the towers were not completed until 1869.

There are many interesting houses in Regensburg. One of these is the Golden Cross Inn, where the Emperor Charles V met Barbara Blomberg. Their son came into fame as the great military leader Don John of Austria. There may also be seen the house where Johann Kepler, the famous German astronomer, died on November 5, 1630. One of the most pleasing modern buildings in the city is the Gothic villa of the king of Bavaria which stands on the bank of the Danube.

In 1885 near Regensburg the remains of a Roman camp with an arched gateway were discovered.

BERCHTESGADEN, NEAR SALZBURG, AUSTRIA



The Story of the Danube

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Monograph Number Two in The Mentor Reading Course



SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, does not lie on the Danube; but it is one of the most important cities in Austria-Hungary, and is situated on the Salzach, a tributary of the Danube. Its position in the valley is one of extreme beauty and it is near the beautiful district of Berchtesgaden, with the Königssee, reputed to be the most superb lake in Europe.

The beginning of the present city of Salzburg was the monastery founded there about 700 by Saint Rupert of Worms. The modern name of the town was given to it shortly afterward. It is derived from the fact that the district abounds in salt. Salzburg steadily increased in religious importance, and the archbishops of the city were made imperial princes in 1278 by Rudolph of Hapsburg.

The people of Salzburg were in continual strife with their rulers. By the peace of Lunéville in 1802 the archbishopric was secularized and given to the Archduke of Austria and Grand Duke of Tuscany in exchange for Tuscany. Following the peace of Pressburg in 1805, Salzburg fell to Austria. It then passed to Bavaria, and back to Austria once more in 1816. In 1849 it was made a separate and independent crown land.

Due to frequent fires and other causes, few medieval buildings have survived in Salzburg; but it has many interesting structures nevertheless. The streets in the older part of the town are narrow, crooked, and gloomy; but the newer parts are handsome and spacious. Because of the Italian architecture, the numerous open squares, and the abundant fountains, Salzburg has been called the "German Rome."

On the south side of the older part of Salzburg is the cathedral, built in 1614-1668 by the Italian architect Santino Solari. It is an imitation of St. Peter's of Rome. Next to the cathedral in interest is the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter, which was founded by Saint Rupert in the seventh century, although the present buildings are of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among the numerous tombs in the interior are those of Saint Rupert, and of the composer Michael Haydn, a brother of the more celebrated Josef.

The Mönchsberg is a wooded hill 1,645 feet high, bounding Salzburg on the west. Its summit is reached by a cable tramway or by an electric elevator. On the southeast point of this hill is enthroned the fortress of Hohen-Salzburg. The fortress is now used as barracks. It was built under the direction of Archbishop Gebhard in 1077. The present buildings, the towers of which rise 400 feet above the town, date chiefly from 1496-1519. Its chapel, the Church of St. George, built in 1502, contains statues of the twelve Apostles in red marble.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the famous composer, was born at Salzburg on January 27, 1756. The house in which he was born has been transformed into a museum and contains many interesting relics.



VILLAGE OF WEITENEGG, AUSTRIA

The Story of the Danube

BEAUTY SPOTS ON THE RIVER

Monograph Number Three in The Mentor Reading Course



IN journeying down the Danube travelers are always interested in passing the rapids called the Strudel, which are over 500 yards long. When these rapids are reached the steamer steers close by the island of Wört, at the north end of which are a stone cross and a few ruins of what was once a castle. Opposite, on the left bank of the river, is the village of Struden, with the ruin of Werfenstein on a steep rock. A little lower down the Strudel forms another rapid called Wirbel, which was once very dangerous.

Farther down the steamer passes prettily situated St. Nicola, Sarmingstein, with an old tower, and Freyenstein, with its large ruined castle. Then Ybbs is seen. This was once a Roman castle. Then Marbach, a small market town, is reached. On the hill above the village rises the little church of Maria-Taferl, which overlooks the valley of the Danube and a great part of lower Austria, and the Styrian and Austrian Alps. Farther down on the right bank is Pöchlarn, the legendary home of Rüdiger of Bechelaren, one of the heroes of the Niebelungen Lied, the great German epic. On the left bank of the river, still farther on, is Weitenegg, with its ruins of a castle. Then on the right bank Melk is reached.

Melk is a small town of only about 2,500 inhabitants; but it is famous for its Benedictine abbey, which stands 200 feet above the river. This abbey was founded in 1089 and reërected on a great scale in 1702-36. On the landward side it is strongly fortified. It contains the "Melker Kreuz," which is two feet high, in embossed gold, and dates from 1363. The back is adorned with pearls and gems; the foot is made of silver.

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THE RUIN DÜRNSTEIN, AUSTRIA.



The Story of the Danube

DÜRNSTEIN AND GREIFENSTEIN

Monograph Number Four in The Mentor Reading Course



THE village of Dürnstein looks very picturesque from the Danube. The most conspicuous sight there, of course, is the ruins of the Castle of Dürnstein standing on jagged rock; but the seventeenth century Schloss of Prince Starhemberg, the old abbey, and the church are also noticeable.

It was in the Castle of Dürnstein in 1192-93, according to tradition, that Duke Leopold VI of Austria kept Richard Cœur de Lion a prisoner for fifteen months.

The story of Richard Cœur de Lion is an interesting one. He was the second and most adventurous of the three sons of Henry II of England. He was born in 1157, and from the time he was 16 years old he was involved in strife of one sort or another. In 1183 his elder brother Henry died, and Richard became heir to the throne. He became king at the death of his father in 1189.

In 1191 Richard set out for the Holy Land. He won a brilliant victory over the forces of the Turks, and twice came within a few miles of Jerusalem. On the ninth of October, 1192, he started on his return to England. Leopold of Austria was his enemy, and when Richard was attempting to go through the country in disguise he was captured in Vienna on December 20 and imprisoned in the duke's Castle of Dürnstein.

For some time his whereabouts were unknown; but the legend says that his faithful minstrel Blondel discovered his prison. Early in the next year Leopold surrendered his prize to the Emperor Henry VI. Finally, after paying a ransom to this ruler, Richard returned to England. He died on April 6, 1199.

Farther down the Danube rises the Castle of Greifenstein, a fine old castle of Prince Liechtenstein which has been partly restored. It is now a station on the railway which skirts the river here.

CHAIN BRIDGE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



The Story of the Danube

BUDAPEST

Monograph Number Five in The Mentor Reading Course



BUDAPEST, the second largest city in Austria-Hungary, and capital of the kingdom of Hungary, is in reality not one town, but two. It lies on both banks of the Danube. The story of Budapest is the story of two towns, Buda and Pesth. The Romans founded a colony where Buda is now and named it Aquincum, which means "rich waters." About 376 the Huns invaded the town, and later on the Magyars did the same.

Pesth is modern in aspect, with a long row of handsome buildings facing the river. Originally it was a German settlement. The Mongols destroyed the city in 1241; but six years later they departed, and the city was repopled by colonists of many nationalities. Pesth became very prosperous, although its sister-town, Buda, rather eclipsed it. The Turks captured Pesth in 1526; and from 1541 to 1686 Buda was the seat of a Turkish pasha. When the Turks left Pesth it was hardly more than a heap of ruins; but its situation helped its revival and the city developed rapidly. In 1872 Buda and Pesth were united in one city. In 1892 Budapest became a royal residence. There in 1896 the Millennium Exhibition, celebrating the one thousandth anniversary of the foundation of the kingdom of Hungary, took place.

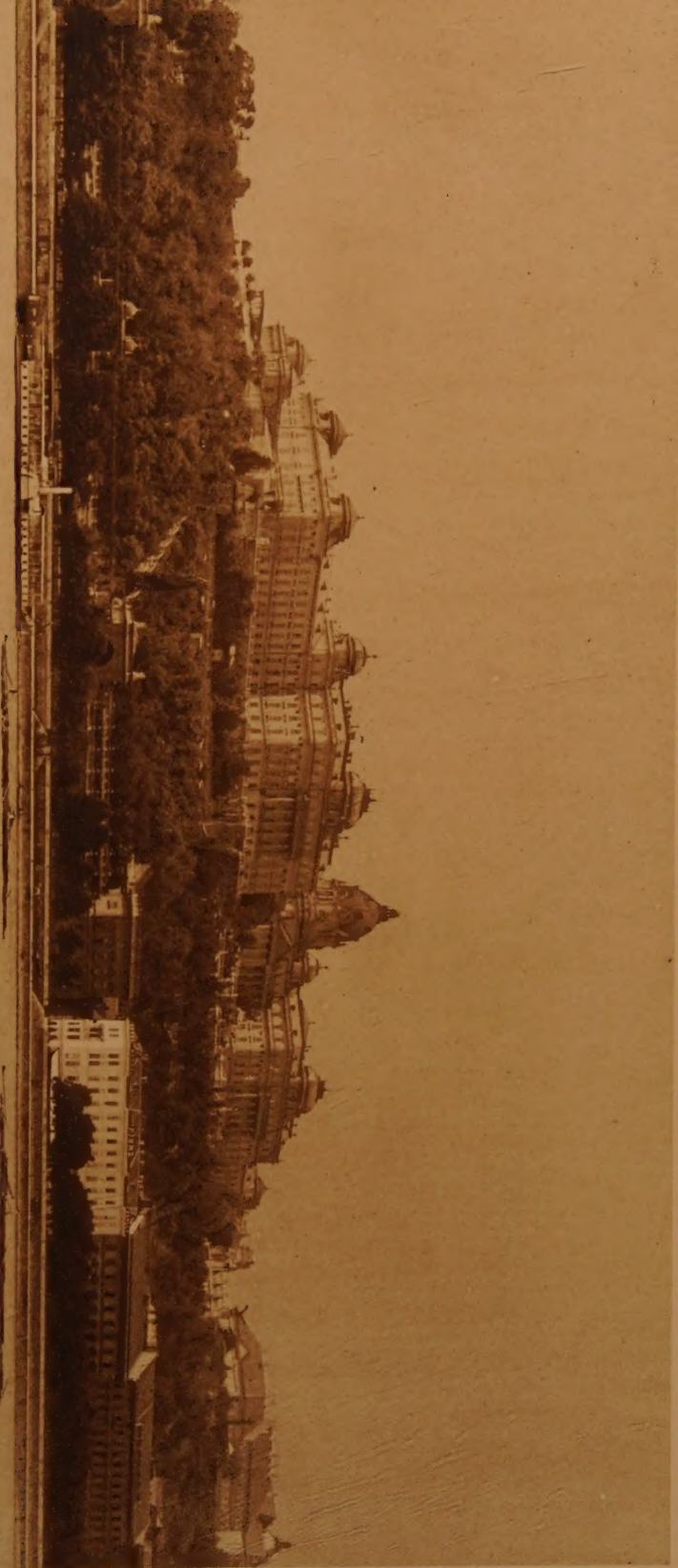
Although Budapest is of ancient origin, it has not many old buildings. The oldest church is the Matthias Church in Buda, which was begun by King Bela IV in the thirteenth century, and restored in 1890-96. The Turks used it as a mosque while they were there, and it was in this church that Franz Josef was crowned king of Hungary in 1867.

One of the most beautiful streets in the town is the Andrassy Ut. It is a very busy thoroughfare, lined with beautiful buildings and handsome villas. Budapest has other beautiful streets and squares, most of them ornamented with monuments of famous Hungarians. The park on Margant Island in the river is one of the most beautiful in Europe.

The artistic life of Budapest centers about the Academy of Music, of which Franz Liszt was once director, a dramatic school, and a school for painting. The government maintains all these.

Budapest is second to Vienna alone in Austria in volume of commerce and industry. The principal businesses are flour milling and the manufacture of machinery, carriages, and gold and silver wares. It is the seat of the government of Hungary, and is also the intellectual and artistic center of the kingdom. Its population is over 880,000.

ROYAL PALACE AND RIVER FROM THE FRANZ JOSEF QUAY, BUDAPEST HUNGARY



The Story of the Danube

THE FRANZ JOSEF QUAY, ROYAL PALACE, AND HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, BUDAPEST

Monograph Number Six in The Mentor Reading Course



HE most attractive parts of Budapest are the broad quays that extend along the bank of the Danube. The most important of these is the Franz Josef Quay, which is about a mile long, and contains all the most fashionable cafés and hotels, and is a charming promenade. Carriages are not admitted here. Fine trees abound, and on summer evenings it is thronged with merry citizens.

From the Franz Josef Quay across the river may be seen the Royal Palace, erected by Maria Theresa in 1749-71. This building was partly burned in 1849; but since 1894 it has been restored and extended greatly. The façade toward the Danube is 1,000 feet long, and the central part is crowned by a dome 203 feet high. It is surrounded by a magnificent garden, which descends in steep terraces to the river. In the St. Stephen or Sigismund Chapel, the chapel royal, is kept Hungary's most treasured relic, the right hand of Saint Stephen, which is carried round and shown to the people each year on Saint Stephen's Day.

In the crown room of the Royal Palace, guarded by soldiers, are the Hungarian regalia,—the crown of Saint Stephen or coronation crown, the scepter, the orb, the sword, and the coronation robe. The lower part of the crown was given to Saint Stephen by Pope Sylvester II in the year 1000. Louis Kossuth, the famous Hungarian patriot (1802-1894), who at one time came to America, buried this crown for safety for four years.

The Parliament House is a huge limestone building erected in 1883-1902. It has a dome 315 feet high over the central building, and two towers each 256 feet high. The building has two wings occupied by the House of Representatives and the House of Magnates. Along the exterior of the Parliament House are 90 statues of the kings of Hungary and many Hungarian generals and statesmen. Inside the building is the throne room, a domed hall 89 feet high. The other important rooms are the session hall of the representatives, and the session hall of the magnates.